

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 NEA-10 AF-10 OMB-01 DLOS-06

COA-02 EB-11 DRC-01 /166 W
----- 043357

R 061016Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9471

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

CINCPAC/POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 13047

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, MOPS, MY, SN, US, ID

SUBJECT: LOS: MALACCA STRAIT

REF: A. STATE 217834; B. JAKARTA 12826; C. JAKARTA 13002

1. AS NOTED IN REF B, WE HAVE NEVER GIVEN GOI
COURTESY NOTIFICATION OF VESSEL TRANSITTING MALACCA
STRAIT PER SE, BUT HAVE AT TIMES INFORMED THEM OF
SUCH INTENDED TRANSIT WHEN NOTIFYING THEM OF
PASSAGE THROUGH OTHER STRAITS. SPECIFICALLY (REF A),
IN JULY 1968 WE NOTIFIED THE GOI THAT THE USS
INTREPID WOULD BE TRANSITTING THE SUNDA STRAITS
AND BY INFORMING THEM OF THE ENTIRE PROPOSED VOYAGE,
LET THEM KNOW THAT THE VESSEL WOULD ALSO TRANSIT
THE MALACCA STRAIT. IN JUNE 1969 A SIMILAR CASE
OCCURRED WITH THE USS BAYA. IN 1971 THE RECORDS
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SHOW WE INFORMED THE GOI OF A PROPOSED COMBINATION

SUNDA/MALACCA TRANSIT WHICH WAS LATER CLARIFIED
TO READ SUNDA/MOLUKU.

2. ALL COURTESY NOTIFICATIONS ARE NOW MADE ORALLY
BY THE NAVAL ATTACHE TO HANKAM. PREVIOUSLY, NOTI-
FICATION WAS MADE TO THE INDONESIAN NAVY, UNTIL
HANKAM REQUESTED REVISED PROCEDURE.

3. WHILE OTHER TRANSITS OF THE MALACCA STRAIT
BY US WARSHIPS HAVE PRESUMABLY TAKEN PLACE, THE
INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT APPARENTLY WAS (A) UNINFORMED
OF WHAT WAS TAKING PLACE, (B) WAS SO UNCOORDINATED
AS NOT TO REALIZE AT THE SENIOR LEVELS THAT NO
COURTESY NOTIFICATION HAD TAKEN PLACE, OR (C)
CHOSE TO IGNORE THE SITUATION. NOW THE SITUATION
HAS CHANGED, AND HIGH LEVEL INTEREST IS INVOLVED,
PERHAPS IN PART BECAUSE OF INDONESIA'S GREATER
CONCERN ABOUT AND PARTICIPATION IN WORLD EVENTS
SUCH AS THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION.

4. WE ARE THUS CONFRONTED WITH FOLLOWING CHOICES:
(A) WE CAN TRY, IN THE PRE-LOS CONFERENCE PERIOD
AT LEAST, TO ACCOMMODATE INDONESIAN SENSIBILITIES
CONCERNING THE MALACCA STRAIT, PERHAPS BY PROVIDING
"NOTIFICATION" ALONG THE LINES SUGGESTED IN PARA 3
REF B. THIS WOULD AVOID INJURING INDONESIAN
SENSITIVITIES AND JOINING THIS ISSUE PUBLICLY,
WOULD PROTECT GOOD RELATIONSHIPS WE NOW ENJOY AND
ENHANCE THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THE GOI WOULD BE COOPERA-
TIVE IN TRYING TO FIND MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS
AT THE LOS CONFERENCE; OR (B) WE CAN REFUSE TO
GIVE COURTESY NOTIFICATION OF PASSAGE OF WARSHIPS
THROUGH THE MALACCA STRAIT AND STONEWALL POLITICAL
CONSEQUENCES WHICH, AS POINTED OUT IN PARA 3 OF
REF C, COULD BE HEAVY, COULD AFFECT ADVERSELY OTHER
MATTERS OF SOME IMPORTANCE TO US, AND WOULD NOT SEEM TO ME
TO ADVANCE OUR CAUSE OR INTERESTS IN ANY OTHER WAY.

5. PLEASE ADVISE.
GALBRAITH
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